

1 CLAIMS

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4 1. A networked client/server system, comprising:  
5 a network annotation server;  
6 a network media server;  
7 a client that communicates with both the annotation server and the media  
8 server over a data communications network;  
9 multimedia content available from the media server;  
10 a plurality of annotations, corresponding to the multimedia content,  
11 available from the annotation server, each of the plurality of annotations including  
12 annotation content and a temporal range identifier that identifies a segment of the  
13 multimedia content to which the annotation corresponds; and  
14 wherein the client supports a graphical user interface that presents a  
15 plurality of annotation identifiers corresponding to the multimedia content and that  
16 enables a user to request selected ones of the plurality of annotations, based on the  
17 plurality of annotation identifiers, and to render the requested annotations.

18 2. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the graphical user interface  
19 further includes a plurality of user-configurable buttons, whereupon selection of  
20 one of the plurality of user-configurable buttons a user-defined action  
21 corresponding to the selected button is taken.  
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1           3.    A graphical user interface for adding annotations to an annotation  
2 database from a network client, the graphical user interface comprising:

3               an annotation content field via which a user can enter content for a new  
4 annotation to the network client; and

5               an annotation type selector presenting a plurality of annotation media types,  
6 whereupon selection of one of the plurality of annotation types causes the network  
7 client to change presentation of the annotation content field based on the selected  
8 annotation type.

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10           4.    A graphical user interface as recited in claim 3, wherein the plurality  
11 of annotation types include a text option, an audio option, and a uniform resource  
12 locator (URL) option.

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14           5.    A graphical user interface as recited in claim 3, wherein the  
15 annotation content field comprises a uniform resource locator (URL) field when  
16 an URL type is selected.

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18           6.    A graphical user interface as recited in claim 3, wherein the  
19 annotation content field comprises a text entry field when a text type is selected.


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21           7.    A graphical user interface as recited in claim 3, wherein the  
22 annotation content field comprises, when an audio type is selected, a plurality of  
23 audio controls including one or more of: record, stop, pause, play, fast forward,  
24 and rewind.

1 8. A graphical user interface as recited in claim 3, wherein the plurality  
2 of annotation type selector comprises a radio button for each of the plurality of  
3 annotation types.

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5 9. A graphical user interface as recited in claim 3, further comprising an  
6 email field to identify a recipient to receive an email notification of the new  
7 annotation.

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9 10. A graphical user interface as recited in claim 3, further comprising  
10 an add button, whereupon selection of the add button causes the network client to  
11 forward the content from the annotation content field to an annotation server to be  
12 added to an annotation database.

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14 11. A graphical user interface as recited in claim 3, further comprising  
15 temporal range information identifying a segment of media content to which the  
16 annotation corresponds.

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18 12. A graphical user interface at a network client to search for  
19 annotations corresponding to media content in an annotation database, the  
20 graphical user interface comprising:

21 an annotation set selector via which a user can identify one or more of a  
22 plurality of annotation sets to be searched;

23 a search criteria portion via which a user can identify search criteria; and  
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1 a query button, wherein actuation of the query button causes the network  
2 client to forward the identified one or more annotation sets and the identified  
3 search criteria to an annotation server to search the annotation database.

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5 13. A graphical user interface as recited in claim 12, further comprising  
6 a target check box, whereupon selection of the target check box causes the  
7 network client to add, as an additional search criteria, a media content identifier.

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9 14. A graphical user interface as recited in claim 12, wherein the search  
10 criteria portion includes one or more of: an annotation creation date entry field, a  
11 keyword entry field, and a temporal range entry field.

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13 15. A graphical user interface as recited in claim 12, further comprising  
14 a detail level selector via which a user can indicate an amount of data to be  
15 displayed for each annotation that matches the search criteria.

16  
17 16. A graphical user interface for viewing, at a network client,  
18 annotations corresponding to media content, the graphical user interface  
19 comprising:

20 an annotation identifier list via which an identifier for each of a plurality of  
21 annotations corresponding to the media content is displayed, the identifier  
22 including an indication of a type of content included in the annotation;

23 an actuation mechanism to enable a user to select one of the annotation  
24 identifiers, wherein selection of one of the annotation identifiers causes the  
25 network client to highlight the annotation identifier.

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2 17. A graphical user interface as recited in claim 16, wherein the type of  
3 content includes one or more of: audio content, text content, video content, and  
4 uniform resource locator (URL) content.  
5

6 18. A graphical user interface as recited in claim 16, wherein the  
7 identifier for an annotation includes one or more of: an indication of an author of  
8 the annotation, an indication of an annotation set that the annotation belongs to, an  
9 indication of a date the annotation was created, and a summary of the annotation.  
10

11 19. A graphical user interface as recited in claim 16, further comprising  
12 a mechanism to identify a particular identifier that corresponds to an annotation of  
13 the plurality of annotations with a temporal range having a beginning time closest  
14 to the current presentation time of the media content.  
15

16 20. A graphical user interface as recited in claim 19, wherein the  
17 mechanism comprises an arrow.  
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19 21. A graphical user interface as recited in claim 16, further comprising  
20 a preview portion via which annotation content for a selected one of the plurality  
21 of annotations is displayed.  
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1           22.    A graphical user interface as recited in claim 16, further comprising  
2 a menu including a plurality of options identifying criteria to be used to order the  
3 annotation identifiers in the annotation identifier portion, whereupon selection of  
4 one of the plurality of options by a user causes the network client to arrange the  
5 annotation identifiers in the annotation identifier list in accordance with the  
6 criteria of the selected option.

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8           23.    A graphical user interface presented by an interface module, the  
9 graphical user interface comprising:

10           an annotation content portion via which annotations corresponding to the  
11 video content are presented to a user;

12           an annotation identifier portion that identifies a plurality of annotations  
13 corresponding to the media portion; and

14           an input button, wherein user selection of the input button causes the  
15 interface module to create a new annotation.

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17           24.    A graphical user interface as recited in claim 23, wherein the  
18 annotation identifier portion further includes a visual identification of a current  
19 one or more annotations of the plurality of annotations that are temporally closest  
20 to a current playback position of the video content.

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25. A graphical user interface as recited in claim 23, further comprising a plurality of user-configurable buttons, whereupon selection of one of the plurality of user-configurable buttons a user-defined action corresponding to the selected button is taken.

26. A graphical user interface as recited in claim 23, further comprising a media portion via which video content is displayed to a user.

27. A graphical user interface as recited in claim 23, wherein the interface module creates the new annotation by forwarding content for the new annotation to an annotation server.

28. A method comprising:  
presenting a user interface at a client computer, the user interface enabling a user to add a new annotation corresponding to media content;  
receiving a user request to add the new annotation; and  
forwarding information for the new annotation to an annotation server, the information including data associated with the user interface.

29. A method as recited in claim 28, wherein the data associated with the user interface comprises an annotation set identifier.

30. A method as recited in claim 28, further comprising:  
analyzing at least a portion of the media content to identify a likely temporal location of the media content to associate the new annotation with; and

presenting the likely temporal location to the user via the user interface.

31. One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 28.

32. A method comprising:  
presenting a user interface at a client computer, the user interface enabling a user to add a new annotation corresponding to media content;  
receiving a user request to add the new annotation;  
analyzing at least a portion of the media content to identify a likely temporal location of the media content to associate the new annotation with; and  
presenting the likely temporal location to the user via the user interface.

33. A method as recited in claim 32, wherein the likely temporal location comprises a likely beginning temporal location of the media content to associate the new annotation with.

34. A method as recited in claim 32, further comprising:  
receiving an acceptance or rejection of the likely temporal location from the user via the user interface;  
using, in response to receiving an acceptance from the user, the likely temporal location as the temporal location of the media content to associate the new annotation with; and

analyzing, in response to receiving a rejection from the user, at least another portion of the media content to identify another likely temporal location of the media content to associate the new annotation with, and presenting the other likely temporal location to the user via the user interface.

35. A method as recited in claim 34, wherein the portion of the media content and the other portion of the media content are two different portions of the media content.

36. A method as recited in claim 32, further comprising using the likely temporal location as the temporal location of the media content to associate the new annotation with.

37. A method as recited in claim 32, wherein the presenting comprises displaying a video frame of the media content corresponding to the likely temporal location.

38. A method as recited in claim 32, wherein the presenting comprises displaying a presentation time of the media content that corresponds to the likely temporal location.

39. A method as recited in claim 32, wherein the analyzing comprises analyzing audio content.

1           **40.**    A method as recited in claim 32, wherein the analyzing comprises  
2 analyzing video content.

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4           **41.**    One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer  
5 program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim  
6 32.

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8           **42.**    A method comprising:  
9           presenting a graphical user interface at a client computer, the graphical user  
10 interface enabling a user to add a new annotation corresponding to media content;  
11           receiving a user request to add the new annotation;  
12           presenting, to the user via the graphical user interface, a plurality of likely  
13 temporal locations of the media content to associate the new annotation with; and  
14           receiving a user selection of one of the plurality of likely temporal locations  
15 to be the temporal location of the media content to associate the new annotation  
16 with.

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18           **43.**    A method as recited in claim 42, wherein the presenting the plurality  
19 of likely temporal locations comprises identifying a different one of the plurality  
20 of likely temporal locations to the user each time the user actuates a rewind button  
21 of the user interface.

1           44.    A method as recited in claim 42, wherein the presenting comprises,  
2   for each of the plurality of likely temporal locations, displaying a visual indication  
3   of the likely temporal location.

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5           45.    A method as recited in claim 44, wherein the visual indication  
6   includes one or more of: a video frame of the media content, a numerical  
7   presentation time of the media content, and an indicator on a graphical time bar.

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9           46.    One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer  
10   program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim  
11   42.

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13           47.    One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a  
14   computer program that, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one  
15   or more processors to perform functions including:

16           presenting a graphical user interface at a client computer, the graphical user  
17   interface enabling a user to add a new annotation corresponding to media content;

18           receiving a user request to add the new annotation;

19           identifying a user request time that is a time, with reference to the  
20   presentation time of the media content, that the user request is received; and

21           selecting, based on the user request time, a presentation time of the media  
22   content to associate the new annotation with, wherein the presentation time is a  
23   different time than the user request time.

48. One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 47,  
wherein the selecting comprises selecting a begin time and an end time of the  
media content to define a segment of the media content to associate the new  
annotation with, and wherein the begin time is prior to the user request time and  
the end time is subsequent to the user request time.

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